ईरान से तेल का आयात

*102. **श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव : पैट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री** क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ईरान से पाइपलाईन इन द्वारा तेल आयात करने के लिए ईरान और पाकिस्तान की सरकारों से बातचीत कर रही है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir. (b) Does not arise.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHARAO JADHAV : Mr. Chairman, a few days back, there was a news item in the Press that the Government of India was having some discussions with the Government of Iran for laying a pipe-line for import of oil from Iran. But the Minister has said that there is no such question. Then I would like to know this from the Minister. Do we import any oil from Iran ? If so, what quantity of oil are we importing from Iran, and, in what way ? Is it by sea or by some other means ?

Secondly, there was a proposal, as the Minister himself has stated earlier, to lay a gas pipe-line from Oman. There was a very big proposal. What is the progress in laying that gas pipe-line from Oman and by when will that proposal materialise ?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : Sir, as far as part (a) of the question is concerned, I think what the hon. Member is referring to is the supply of not oil, but gas from Iran. Yes, we had negotiations with Iran. The first MoU was signed in July, 1993 in Tehran. Both the sides agreed to meet and to prepare a report in four months. The second MoU was signed in November, 1993, providing for a pre-feasibility study. Shortly, we will jointly institutea pre-feasibility study. The work is under way. Both the expert groups are meeting in April.

As far as part (b) of the question in regard to Oman is concerned, we have made a lot of progress. The pre-feasibility study work is already over. The pre-feasibility report indicates that there will be, from Oman to India, a direct sub-sea pipeline, 1400 kilometres long at times going to a depth of 3000 metres. At present, the gas-pricing negotiations are going on between the two sides. Once that is over, the next phase of work will be started.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Second supplementary.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : What is the proposal of the Government of India ? What quantity of gas is likely to be imported from Oman or Iran ? What is the total requirement of gas of our country in the Eighth Five-Year Plan ? You may recall that when Shri Shankaranand was the Petroleum Minister, he stated in this House that they were having a proposal to lay a pipe-line, on the lines of the HBJ pipe-line to Southern India, running through Maharshtra, Karnataka, Andhra, etc. What happened to that southern gas pipe-line ? By when will it materialise ? It is very important for that region.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is important. But it is not part of the question.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : When a pipe-line is there, it can go anywhere, north or south.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : The proposal is in the pipe-line.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : Sir, I do not mind answering the supplementary though it is not part of the question. The estimated gap between the supply and the demand, for natural gas, by the year 2000, will exceed 79 million Standard Cubic Metres a day. That is the reason why we are concerned and that is the reason why, not only with Oman but with Iran also, we are negotiating because we have in principle, agreed to the setting up of a Southern Gas Grid.

We want to ensure that the Southern Gas Grid also comes up and synchronises with the Oman gas coming to India, as far as the time frame is concerned.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : How much time will the Southern Gas Grid take to come up in India ?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : Sir, the way we are progressing, as far as the Oman gas pipe-line is concerned, as I just mentioned, the pre-feasibility study is already over. As soon as the gas pricing discussions are over, the next

phase of the work will start. We except to have the Oman gas coming to India by the year 1998, that is, four years from now. So, the Southern, Gas Grid could come up as early as 1998.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Mr. Chair man, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the reply given by him is too echnical. The Minister has made a reference o the negotiations. The point is, the Gas Authority of India, especially the Petroleum Ministry, negotiated with companies in India who are going to use the gas till 1996. They need a huge quantity of gas. I am gratefu to the hon. Minister for taking all the pains for getting the gas from Oman and Iran. Now Sir, even for the HBJ pipe-line, the Govern ment has paid more than Rs. 1,200 crores fo xpanding this project and it is not being utilised today because of non-availability of gas, Therefore, Sir, since Iran is nearer to India than Oman for the purpose of getting the gas, how is the gas from Iran to be brought to this country ? There is another question. Oman is claiming more than 3,000 rupees per tonnee But in India, it is supplied to the consumers at Rs. 1,800 per tonne. That being the case, how will this project materalise as far as Oman is concerned ? What sort of price negotiations are you having with Iran in respect of gas supply ?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the negotiations in respect of price of gas as I mentioned earlier, are still under way. It is premature for me to say what price will come about and what will be the price finally. The negotiations are going on. I would like to enlighten the hon. Member on the difference between the Oman gas pipe-line and Iran gas pipe line. As far as Oman is concerned, it will build the infrastructure and supply the gas to India on her own. We are not going to spend any money. We will only pay for the gas. As far as Iran is concerned, the difference between the Iran and Oman scenario is that in our MoU, we have stipulated that both Iran and Oman will utilise the technical capabilities available in both the countries because both the countries are oil-producing countries. We have companies like BHEL, we have the construction companies, pipe manufacturing companies and technically, they are also at quite a high level. So, it will be a joint effort where funding probably will be joint even for the pre-feasibility study. Even for the pre-feasibility report, both the countries will be funding that project jointly and it looks that Iran will come later. But right now Oman has progressed and Oman is spendins money. The total cost from he feasibility study till the construction of the pipe-line, will be met by Oman and the only thing, as you mentioned, is the price of gas and that is under negotiation. The talks are going on.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA : Sir, since the Government is contemplating laying apipe-line across national frontiers and importing gas through the Pipe-lines from Iran and Oman, I think, naturally, we have to ask ourlselves whether we cannot lay the pipe-lines within our country. We have had reports of thousands of crores' worth of natural gas being flared for lack of storage facilities off the Gujarat and Mahrashtra coast.

And as a part of it, there was this talk of laying gas pipelines. It is a guestion of prority and I humbly ask the Minister whether he will consider laying pipelines within the country so that natural gas that is now surplus in the westeran Caost could flow to the south, could flow to the East and the resultant increase income in might be very much worthwhile. That is my humble qustion to the Minister.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : Sir, I think, I have answered the hon. members, question already. As I have mentjond earliey, in the case of Iran, it is our effort that our companies and Iranian companies do the pipeline work to the extent it is possible and the work is given to our companies—which are Indian companies and Iranian companies so that the money being spent by Iran and India comes to our respective countries. As far as that is conceaned, that would be our effort Sir. And as far as the other part is concerned already most of the work is being done. As, for as the domestic pipeline work is concerned, it is still going on whether it is kandla or Bhatinda or any other project. The hon. Member will be aware that even on those projects a lot of constructive work is being done by the Indian companies.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफज़ल: सर, मैं एक तो यह बात पूछना चाहता हूं कि ईरान और ओमान से अगर हमारे प्रोजेक्ट फाइनलाईज हो जाते हैं तो क्या पूरे मुल्क में हमारे जो कंज्यूमर्स हैं, उनके लिए उतनी गैस अवेलेबिल कर पाएंगे कि अब हमारी जरूरत पूरी हो जाए। दूसरे, मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या आपने कुछ प्राईवेट कम्पनियों को इस बात की इजाजत दी है कि वे मुखतलिफ मुमालिक से गैस या पैट्रोल डायरेक्टली खरीदें ? क्या आपने इसकी प्राईवेट कम्पनियों को इजाजत दी है और अगर दी है तो वे कितनी कम्पनीज हैं ?

†شری محمد افضل عرف م افضل: سر ایک تو میں یہ بات پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ ایران اور عمان سے اگر ہمارے پروجیکٹ فائنالائز ہو جاتے ہیں تو کیا پورے ملک میں ہمارے جو کنزیومرس ہیں اُن کے لئے اتنی گیس اویل ایبل کرپائیں گے کہ اب ہماری ضرورت پوری ہو جائے۔ دوسرے میں یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا آپ نے کچھ پرائیوٹ کمپنیوں کو اس بات کی اجازت دی ہے وہ مختلف ممالک سے گیس یا پیٹرول ڈائرکٹلی خریدیں۔ کیا آپ نے اس کی پرائیوٹ کمپنیوں کو اجازت دی ہے اور اگر دی ہے تو کتنی کمپنیز کو دی ہے ہیں۔

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : Sir, as regards the part (1) of the hon. Member's question well, in the case of Oman, phase-I of feasibility study has been completed and phase-II has to be commissioned and 56 million standard cubic metres per day of gas is being assued to us for a period of 30 years. In the case of Iran, their reserves are massive reserves. They are in a position to supply us gas. Prelipminary study has revealed that gas supply of 50 to 75 million standard cubic metres per day from South Para fields is possible Iran and their reserves of gas are so massive that they can supply gas to Iudia far the next seven hundred years. When gas from both Oman and Iran starts flowing into India, not only will it be sufficient, but I think, looking at the scanario, the situation will be very comfortable also.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Sir, I have asked whether hey have allowed some private companies to import gas or petrol; if they have allowed, how many companies have been given permission to import gas from different countries ? That is my question.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : Sir, part (2) of his question is actually not connected with the question but I don't mind answering It. We are buying only from Government to Government, which is called G to G and from the spot market, but because the market is right now soft—and my own understanding is the market is going to remain soft for a year or two—we are looking at other possibilities also, may be buying oil through barter trade or through export, so that we can take advantage of the soft market. We are also looking into that aspect.

श्री शिव चरण सिंह : माननीय मंत्री जी, आप ईरान से जो पाईपलान लाएंगे वह पाकिस्तान और राजस्थान होकर लाएंगे लेकिन राजस्थान के भोटारू और रामगढ़ क्षेत्र में जो गैस मिल रही है और वहां जो गैस के भारी भंडार हैं, उनके उपयोग के बारे में आपकी क्या योजना है, बताइए।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Probably, that goes into the next question.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : As regards part (a) of the question, we have made this very clear to Iran. As far as Oman is concerned the pipeline will be passing through international waters and not through the Pakistan territorial waters. In the case of Iran also, we have made it very clear that the pipeline route should be through the international waters. As regards part (b) of the question, we hav

[†] Transliteration in Arabic script.

found oil in Rajasthan. Gas has already started flowing in Rajasthan. But unfortunately the oil found there is heavy oil and we are trying to process it. That is being studied. Gas has already started flowing and it is to be supplied to the power generation companies nearby.

Exploitation of Proven Oil and Gas Fields by Private and Foreign Companies

*103. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA† :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proven oil and gas fields are allowed to be exploited by private Indian and foreign companies;

(b) if so, what are the details of the fields offered or handed over to private sector, the terms and conditions and relevant aspects;

(c) what are the reasons for handing over proven oil and gas fields to private sector;

(d) whether any of the gas or oil fields are offered or handed over to ONGC workers co-operative;

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefore; and

(f) whether the deptt. would encourage worker's cooperative to exploit these proven isolated oil and gas fields ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In August 1992, 31 small sized and 12 medium sized oil and gas fields were offered for development by Indian and foreign private companies under production sharing arrangements. A further offering of 33 small ized and 8 medium sized fields have been made by the Government in October, 1993.

Government have approved the award of contract for 13 small sized fields as follows :

Field	State/Basin
Hazira	Gujarat
Cambay	Do.
Bhandut	Do.
Sabarmati	Do.
Matar	Do.
Lohar	Do.
Bakrol	Do.
Indrora	Do.
Baola	Do.
Dholka	Do.
Wavel	Do.
Asjol	Do.
PY-1	Cauvery offshore

The salint terms and conditions for development of these fields are :

(i) The medium sized fields would be developed through joint-ventures between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)/Oil India Limited (OIL) on the one hand and private companies on the other. These joint ventures could be either incorporated or unincorporated. Where incorporated, ONGC/OIL would have a 49% share in the equity. In unincorporated ventures, ONGC/OIL share would be 40%.

(ii) The small sized fields would be developed by companies on their own, with no participation by ONGC/OIL, under production sharing contracts to be signed by the companies with the Government of India.

(iii) Provisions also exist :

(a) For payment of signature/production bonuses;

(b) for the companies bearing their share of statutory levies like royalty cess etc.

(c) for levy of income-tax at a fixed rate of 50% (without surcharge).

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.